



North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services  
Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services

**O'Berry Neuro-Medical Treatment Center**

400 Old Smithfield Road ■ Goldsboro, North Carolina 27530-8464 ■ Courier 01-09-01

Michael F. Easley, Governor  
Dempsey Benton, Secretary  
Michael Moseley, Division Director

Frank S. Farrell, Ed.D., Director

December 28, 2007

Dear O'Berry Center Staff:

On Thursday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, O'Berry Center planned to present our annual Community Christmas Extravaganza program. As you know, I postponed this event since some of our individuals tested positive for Hepatitis A antibodies. A positive test for Hepatitis A antibodies means the person has either had the Hepatitis A vaccine or been exposed at some time in their life to Hepatitis A, not that they have active, infectious Hepatitis A. According to the Center for Disease Control, approximately 30 percent of the population of the United States will test positive for Hepatitis A antibodies. However, more definitive tests are needed to determine if those who test positive for antibodies have active infectious Hepatitis A. Even though none of the individuals at O'Berry were exhibiting symptoms of acute Hepatitis A, we decided to conduct further tests on everyone with Hepatitis A antibodies to make absolutely sure no one had active Hepatitis A. I am very pleased to inform you the follow-up test results are back and we have no one with active infectious Hepatitis A. Unfortunately, we could not obtain all the necessary follow-up test results prior to the planned date for the Extravaganza so I felt compelled to postpone the event.

We are rescheduling the Extravaganza for Thursday, January 17, 2008. We encourage you, your family, and friends to join us for this festive occasion. We plan to have many community groups provide music and entertainment, and of course, there will be a variety of foods available. We will leave the campus Christmas decorations up and we will light the luminaries that evening. The celebration will begin at 7 p.m. with activities in the Gym, Chapel, and in the Knights of Columbus Park. The evening will conclude with fireworks at approximately 8:40 p.m. We certainly hope you will be able to join us for this special celebration.

FAX (919) 581-4038  
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Letter to O'Berry Center Staff

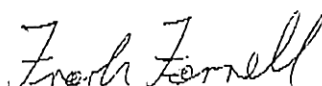
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While we are confident we do not have active infectious Hepatitis at O'Berry at this time, we have decided to offer the Hepatitis A vaccine to staff as an extra precaution against infections in the future. If you are interested in obtaining the vaccine, please contact Employee Health for more information. We appreciate your understanding the past few weeks as we dealt with this troublesome issue.

We look forward to seeing you on January 17<sup>th</sup>.

Sincerely,



Frank S. Farrell, Ed.D.  
Center Director

FSF:mb

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